

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Applicati n of: **NAKAJIMA, Akio**

Group Art Unit: **3724**

Serial No.: **09/400,833**

Examiner: **FLORES SANCHEZ, Omar**

Filed: **September 21, 1999**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: **3858**

For: **WORKPIECE-TRANSFER DEVICE**

PROPOSED

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
- EXPEDITED RESPONSE -
GROUP ART UNIT 3724

BOX AF

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated **September 19, 2002**, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1, as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A workpiece-transfer device for loading a material workpiece in a workpiece-machining device and unloading a machined product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device, characterized in that the workpiece-transfer device includes a movement means with a rectangular coordinate system for moving a traveling body in a first horizontal direction along the direction in which the workpiece-machining device and a workpiece-storage device stand, said workpiece-machining device and said workpiece-storage device being in a line with said workpiece-transfer device located therebetween, as well as in a second horizontal

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direction orthogonal to the first horizontal direction, and in that said traveling body includes a gripping means for gripping a material or product workpiece, wherein said workpiece-storage device includes a product-housing section arranged for stacking of machined product workpieces and a material-housing section arranged for stacking of material workpieces provided in parallel, on one side of said workpiece-machining device, in said second direction.